GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2488
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2002
INTERNET USERS
RATTAN LAL KATARIA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

(a) the percentage of Internet users in India and how does it compare with USA, UK, Canada, Japan and China; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to promote internet and other computer related facilities in the country especially in rural and remote areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SA PASWAN)

(a): The report on penetration/subscription of internet in the country is being compiled quarterly by Department of Telecommunications (DOT) based on the inputs received from various Internet Service Providers.

As per the information available from Internet Service ProvidersAssociation of India (ISPAI), as of June 2002, 3.3 million subscribers are registered. Assuming an average of 5 users per Registered Internet Subscriber, estimated Internet users in the country is 16.5million. The corresponding percentage will be 1.65 >(for a population of 1 billion). The figures of percentage of Internet Users for USA, UK, Canada, Japan and China are 58.5%, 55.32%, 53.26%, 39.16% and 2.65% respectively. Details are placed at Annexure-I.

(b): The Government has taken a number of initiatives for promotion of internet especially in rural and remote areas in the country. The details are given at Annexure-II.